

YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of October 27, 2014

No. 187

Virginia Beach Public Library

Minecraft STEAM program

Libraries provide answers to our customers each and every day. As librarians, we often get to answer our own questions. **What does gaming have to do with learning and why does it belong in libraries?**

The Virginia Beach Public Library has been attracting an untapped youth population by giving them the gaming experience they want, and more, through Minecraft. Minecraft, a widely loved game with teenagers, is an online multiplayer game where users create and destroy blocks to design a variety of creations. **The Library has taken this interactive game and combined it with our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) initiative to create a Minecraft club.**



Students are able to collaborate with their peers to build a plethora of designs, foster perseverance in the face of gaming challenges, and develop the foundation for computational thinking and information literacy. Minecraft is a fun way to provide youth the opportunity to develop these necessary skills, without a textbook, lecture, or classroom.

Parents who are unsure of the safety of online gaming have nothing to fear. These Minecraft sessions are held on a dedicated server that allows students to safely play together with specific rules and challenges. Each class can accommodate up to 15 students.

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Blackwater Regional Library

Science Saturday and Star Wars Reads Program

Just wanted to share some pictures and information about a super fun and informative program we did at the **Carrollton Library**. We held our monthly **Science Saturday** for October on the 11th, which also happened to be **Star Wars Reads Day**. **Our theme for this month was engineering, with a focus on robots.** We did three different activities, based off of templates offered by the Science Museum of Minnesota's Summer '08 Seminar.

First, we discussed robot programming, where the kids had to try to get our manager, Ms. Shannon (who was the robot), to put on a pair of gloves. They learned the importance of precision and specificity in giving directions. We learned that it's not as easy as it seems and that robot programming uses series of steps called algorithms to help them complete tasks. The second activity we did was about using our senses. I created ten mystery boxes, which the kids had to explore with various senses (minus sight because they were



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Youth Services Notes

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Thanks for the photos and information!

- ◇ **Eva Weisenburger**, Blackwater Regional Library
- ◇ **Sarah Pahl**, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library
- ◇ **Karen Gill**, Newport News Public Library System
- ◇ **Marty Staton**, Poquoson Public Library
- ◇ **Amber Yopp**, Roanoke Public Libraries
- ◇ **Katie Cerqua**, Virginia Beach Public Library



Dates to Remember

National Conferences

November 14-16, 2014 YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium Austin
 January 30–February 3, 2015 American Library Association Midwinter Conference Chicago
 June 25-30, 2015 American Library Association Annual Conference San Francisco

Online Courses

January 12, 2015–February 21, 2015 Bilingual Storytime and Library Outreach (Katie Scherrer) online

Training

November 13, 2014 Early Reading Instructional Strategies and Resources (LVA & VDOE) Wise
 November 19, 2014 Early Reading Instructional Strategies and Resources (LVA & VDOE) Roanoke

Roanoke Public Libraries

Main Library Grand Reopening



**MAIN LIBRARY
GRAND REOPENING**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

10 a.m. - Rosemary Wells' Storytime
Noon - Listening Lounge featuring Common Ground
6 p.m. - Rosemary Wells' Family Presentation



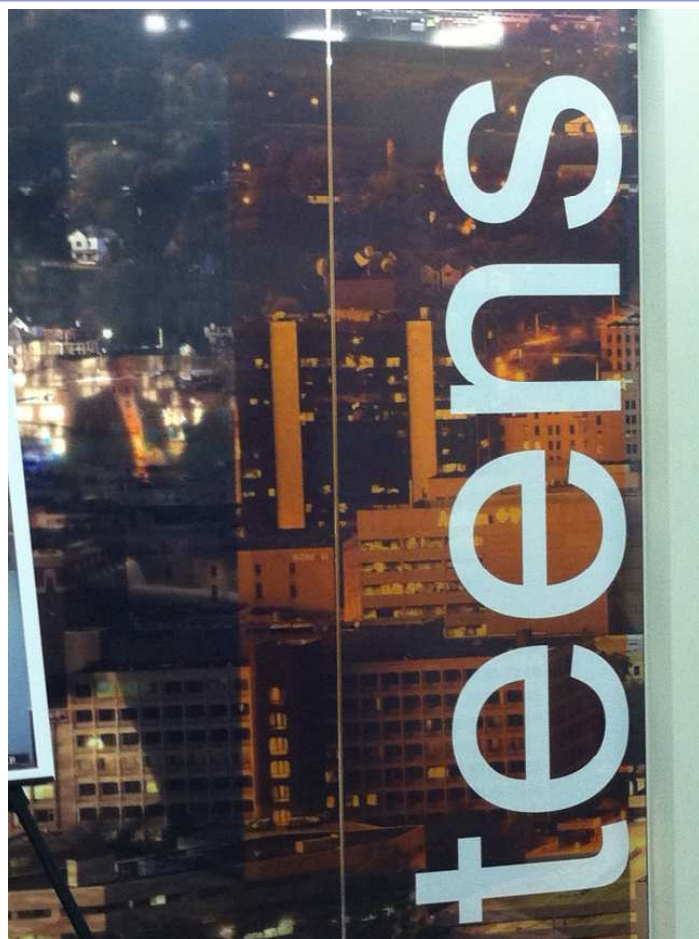
For additional information, please call 540-853-2473.



More pictures on page 4

Roanoke Main Library Grand Reopening

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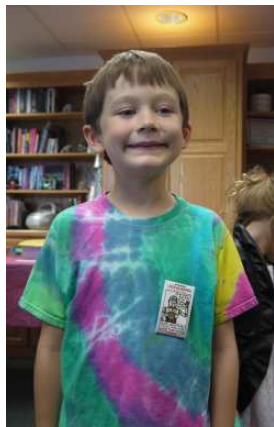


*Pictures taken by Enid,
and one was submitted by Amber Yopp.*

Science Saturday and Star Wars Reads Program

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blindfolded) and make guesses as to what was in the boxes. We discussed how robots perceive their environment through the use of various sensors.



Finally, we did a modeling activity, in which we attempted to learn how robots move. We tried a number of different tasks, which changed our center of gravity in order to experience how robots must make constant adjustments to move around without falling over. Besides the obvious fun we had from our STEM Star Wars games, I had some great Star Wars giveaways to offer the kids thanks to the multiple companies that sponsor Star Wars Reads Day events. A note for other librarians or child educators, if you like the Star Wars Read page on Facebook and sign up for their newsletter, they will e-mail you with chances to score free goodies! The link to their Facebook is: https://www.facebook.com/StarWarsReads?ref=br_tf. It was a blast. . .



— Eva Weisenburger, Youth Services Programmer,
Carrollton & Smithfield Branches,
Blackwater Regional Library ■

Minecraft STEAM program

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How does this club foster learning? The topic for one recent session was Castles. Members discussed the use of castles in history. They explored why, how and where they were built. Then, they used math to find the volume of a rectangular prism (length multiplied width multiplied by height). The final challenge was to build castles of a specific size and designed to repel attack from an eminent war. Students presented their castles to their club-mates, explaining the significance of their architectural and landscape choices.

Sound like fun and gaming? It definitely is...and a whole lot more.

— Katie Cerqua, Youth and Family Services Manager,
Virginia Beach Public Library ■

Newport News Public Library System

Teens Learn to Create Comics as Part of Teen Read Week Events

Teens in Newport News learned how to create their own comic hero, chose books they couldn't do without and watched the movie "Divergent" to celebrate Teen Read Week™, October 12-18, at Newport News Public Libraries.

Vince White, creator of "The Legend Of WILL POWER"™ comic book and a founder of Primal Paper Comics, a Virginia-based comic book coalition of independent comic book publishers and creators, presented a series of four workshops for teens at Pearl Bailey Library.



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Teens Learn to Create Comics

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White started his workshop series, “How to Make Your Comic Hero Iconic,” by explaining to the teens how he came to create his own comic.

“When I was a kid, I didn’t like to read because I suffered from dyslexia and saw letters backward,” White said. “Homework was like torture -- I have to work all day at school and do it at home, too!”

But he was intrigued by his brother’s collection of brightly colored comic books such as “The Tomb of Dracula,” “Blade,” “Iron Man,” and “Master of Kung Fu,” full of illustrations of science and adventure, he said. And he wanted to know what was going on in the books.

Unlike a page full of words, which he found overwhelming, the comics featured small text bubbles that White said he could focus on one at a time, which helped him learn to enjoy reading.

“They opened my mind to new horizons,” he said.

He and other children learn about science, space exploration, DNA, morals, right from wrong, safety,



health, government and more from comics, he said. And they are inspired.

“Comics do teach you to dream,” he said. “They made me dream.”

White worked as a graphic designer for about 10 years, he said, before he began pursuing his dream three years ago. His WILL POWER comic now has a spin-off, crossover characters, licensed toys, lunch boxes, tennis shoes and a theme song. He is in the process of writing a screen play for animation.

About 12 teens participated in the workshops, which culminated in the creation of a collaborative iconic superhero, “**The Sign Doctor**,” by the teens, White and youth services staff members at Pearl Bailey Library.

Made possible by the **Friends of the Newport News Public Library**, the workshops and other Teen Read Week activities were free and open to the public.



— News Release, October 22, 2014, from Karen L. Gill, Community Relations and Programs Coordinator, Newport News Public Library System ■

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Displays in the Library

Current displays in the children and teen area of our Meadowbrook branch.



— Sarah Pahl, Youth Services Manager, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library ■



Lunar and Planetary Institute

Earth and Space Science News

The LPI Earth and Space Science News is available on our website, and also through a regularly updated RSS feed.

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/resources/news/>

Included in this issue:

- Link to a meteor shower, winter solstice, the Dawn mission's arrival at Ceres, and more in **Calendar**
- Learn about NASA webinars, an elementary workshop in New York, and more at **Workshops and Courses**
- Check out the Humans in Space Art Video Challenge, a free presentation at LPI about the movie "The Core," and more in **Events**
- Send your name on the first Orion flight, participate in Mercury student research, an elementary art contest, the Sally Ride EarthKAM missions, and more, in **Get Involved**
- Apply for a teacher scholarship to raft the Grand Canyon, an award for excellence in Earth science teaching, the ING Unsung Heroes class project awards, the Shell Science Teaching Award or the 2015 Leavey Awards in **Grants and Awards**
- Connect to a new LPI Education website "Look Up!", free GIS activities, NASA's Extreme Weather quiz, Space Racers' lesson plans, a free eBook about the stars with tools for children with disabilities, and resources on climate and energy literacy in **Resources**
- Read about evidence that the Milky Way galaxy has only half its expected dark matter, a disappearing and reappearing feature on Titan, possible "heavy metal" frost on Venus, evidence that tidal forces resurfaced Uranus' moon Miranda, the possible detection of the source of dark matter, MAVEN's arrival at Mars, and evidence for unexpectedly young volcanism on the Moon, in **Mission News and Science**

— Best wishes, Christine Shupla, Formal Education Lead Specialist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute ■

"I used to go to the library all the time when I was a kid. As a teenager, I got a book on how to write jokes at the library, and that, in turn, launched my comedy career."
~ comedian Drew Carey ~

VLA Conference Program

1,000 Books B 4 K: R U Kidding?

Poquoson Public Library is excited to share about their new program **1,000 Books B 4 K** at the VLA conference in October. This program requires some set up, but after it's going it takes much less time/energy to keep it going. And the results are definitely worth it!



1,000 Books B 4 K began 8 years ago in the Midwest, but now it has spread across the USA and into VA! Research and professionals support this early literacy initiative as we know that those years between birth and kindergarten are the optimum learning times when synapses are firing away.

This is a win-win type of program! **Everyone benefits: the child, the parents, the school, and the library.** In her book *Reading Magic*, Mem Fox states that "... experts tell us that children need to hear a thousand stories read aloud before they learn to read for themselves." Children and parents who snuggle up to read together have a unique bonding time, learning happens, and it's FUN! What kindergarten teacher wouldn't be overjoyed to have children enter the



classroom with that increased vocabulary, print motivation and awareness, comprehension, and attention span? And what library wouldn't be thrilled to see their littlest patrons happily coming in for return visits as they finish a page of 100 books and get their sticker rewards - and checkout more books!



Circulation increases! Our children circs have gone up almost 40% in the 22 months since we began 1,000 Books! The 288 children who have registered for our program make a significant statistic as well as the passive statistics tallied as each child reaches their 100 book goal and returns for sticker rewards and the tools they need to keep reading and recording.

Choosing your theme and incentives, figuring your costs and funding, advertising, and pep rallies to keep the interest going are the logistics to accomplish before you start reaping the benefits! Don't be overwhelmed! It's doable! There is lots of help out there. Questions? You may contact me at marty.staton@poquoson-va.gov or 757-868-3063. You may also download handouts from this program @ the VLA website. (Our presentation was Friday @ 10:45am) <http://tinyurl.com/2014AgentsofChange>

— Marty Staton, Youth Services Librarian, Poquoson Public Library ■



**"I have always imagined that
Paradise will be a kind of library."**
~ Jorge Luis Borges ~